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A SHORT HISTORY OF A LONG TRAVEL FROM BABYLON TO BETHEL.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF A LONG TRAVEL.

IN the days of my youth, when I lived at home in my father's houſe, I heard many people talk of the houſe of God; and that whoſoever did attain to get into it, did enjoy all manner of happineſs, both in this world, and that which is to come. And a great deſire kindled in me, if it was poſſible, to get into the houſe; but I knew not where it was, neither did they who talked of it: but they had heard the report, and they had reported what they had heard. There were alſo ſome books that had been written

by men who had been in that houſe; which books did declare much of the joy and felicity they had in that houſe: theſe books I got, and read them over and over, which did much ſtrengthen my belief in the truth of the reports; but by no means could I tell which was my way. Yet ſo ardent were my deſires, that I thought myſelf willing to forſake my father's houſe, and country and all, and travel any where, wherever my legs would carry me, ſo I might find this houſe.

And upon a time I was breaking my mind to a friend of mine upon this ſubject, who readily told me, there were men appointed in every place to guide thoſe who were willing to go thither, and it was their buſineſs, and they had nothing elſe to do. When I heard this I was comforted, and deſired him, if he loved me, to bring me acquainted with one of theſe men.

He told me he would, which he did; and when I came to treat with the man, and let him know the fervent deſire I had

had to get to the houſe of God, which I had heard ſuch excellent things of, and that I heard that he was one appointed to guide any thither, who were willing to go; he very readily anſwered, and told me, it was his buſineſs to guide any thither who were willing to go, and to perſuade folks, who were not yet willing, to go; and if I would comply with his terms, and follow him, he would lead me thither.

I aſked him, what his terms were. He ſaid the way was long, and would lead him from his home, and I muſt bear his charges and ſomething over. —To all which I agreed. So we ſet forward on our journey early in the morning; but before we had gone one whole day's journey, I ſaw my guide ſometimes ſtand ſtill and look about him, and ſometimes would pull a little book out of his pocket, and read a little to himſelf; which made me begin to miſtruſt, that he knew the way no better than I. However I ſaid nothing, but went on, following him ſeveral days journey after this manner;

and the farther we went, the more my guide was at a loſs, and went ſometimes a little on, and then would look about him, and then turn another way, and ſometimes right back again for a while, and then turn again. So my ſuſpicion grew very ſtrong; and I began to be in great anxiety of ſpirit, but ſaid little to him about it.

But one day, as we were travelling along, we met with a man that took notice of my ſad countenance, and tired condition, and he ſpake very kindly to me: Young man, ſaid he, whither art thou bound? And when I began to tell him ſomething of my journey, he deſired me to ſit down upon the graſs, in a ſhady place, and diſcourſe a little about my journey; and ſo we did, and I told him how things had gone with me to that very hour. And whilſt I was telling him the ſtory, my guide fell aſleep; at which I was not ſorry, for thereby I had the more freedom to diſcourſe with the man; and when I had told him all, he pitied me, and withal told me, to

his

his certain knowledge, this guide of mine had never been at the houſe, neither did know the way to it, but as he had got ſome marks of the way, which he had received, as I, or any other may do; and if I followed him all my days, I ſhould be never the nearer to it, and ſhould find at laſt, I had ſpent my time, money, and labour, to no purpoſe.

This diſcourſe did ſo aſtoniſh me, that I was at my wit's end, and did not know what courſe to take. The man ſeeing what an agony I was in, began to comfort me, and told me, that the houſe I ſought was nearer than I was aware of; and if I would forſake that guide, and follow him, he would ſoon bring me in ſight of that houſe: And, quoth he, I am one that belongs to that houſe, and have done ſo ſeveral years; and whereas, ſaid he, thou art to bear his charges, and give him money beſides, I will aſſure thee, it is not the manner of the guides that belong to this houſe of God, to take money for guiding people thither: I

myſelf have been guide to many a one in my time, but never took one penny of them for it.

By this time you may think within yourſelves, how my drooping ſpirits were comforted, and a new hope ſpringing, and a reſolution to forſake my wandering guide, and to follow this new one.

Upon which I awaked my guide, and told him my mind, and paid him what I had agreed for, and adviſed him never to ſerve any poor ſoul as he had done me; For I ſee, ſaid I, thou knoweſt not the way, but as thou haſt learned in ſome books of it. If book-learning would have ſerved my turn to have found this famous houſe, I needed not thee, nor any body elſe to have guided me to it, for they are but very few who have written experimentally of it, but I have read them diligently; but now I have met with a man, that I judge has more experience of the way than thou haſt, and I am reſolved to go with him; and if thou wilt honeſtly

honeſtly confeſs thy ignorance, and go along with us, come and welcome, one guide will ſerve two travellers, as well as one in the way; but I could not perſuade him; ſo I left him to take his own way as he pleaſed.

So I ſet forward with my new guide pretty cheerfully, and he entertained me with a good deal of diſcourſe by the way, and he went on in pretty ſmooth paths, and without ſtopping, and he told me in a ſhort time we ſhould come in ſight of the houſe, which made my travel the eaſier; and he alſo told me ſomething of the rules and orders of the houſe; at which I was not at all diſcouraged, for I conſidered, God was a God of order, and I doubted not but there were good orders in his houſe, to which I was willing to ſubmit.

And as we were thus travelling along, he of a ſudden ſpake to me, ſaying, Yonder is the houſe; at which I was exceeding glad, for now I thought I had not ſpent my labour in vain, and

and the nearer we drew to it, the more my joy increaſed; and when I came in view of it, I pleaſed myſelf extremely with looking at it, and viewing the towers and turrets that were upon it, and the excellent carvings and paintings with which it was adorned; and there was as much of art in ſetting it forth, as could be imagined. Oh! thought I, if there be ſo much glory without, ſurely there is more within, which I ſhall ſhortly be a partaker of.

And as I was thus contemplating my happineſs, and was come within, as it were, a bow-ſhot of the houſe, we were to go down into a valley, which we did, and in the bottom of the valley glided along a ſmall river, and I looked about to ſee for a bridge to go over it, but could ſee none, at which I wondered; but on we went, till we came to the river-ſide; then I aſked my guide, where the bridge was? Truly he told me there was none, but we muſt go through it, and ſo muſt all that go into that houſe.

I was

I was a little troubled within myſelf; but he told me he had been through it, and there was no danger at all. With that I began to think within myſelf, have I taken all theſe pains, and ſhall I give over for ſo ſmall a matter as this! What would I have gone through, when in my father's houſe, to attain to the knowledge of the houſe of God, and a poſſeſſion therein; not water, nor verily fire would have ſtopped me then, if I had had ſo fair a proſpect of it as now I have.

I told my guide, if he pleaſed to go before, I would follow him; ſo in he went, and I after him; but when I came to the middle, there it was ſo deep that the water went over my head, but I made ſhift to keep my feet to the ground, and got well on the other ſide; and my guide and I went up together very pleaſantly; and when we came to the top of the hill, there was a wide plain, and in the middle thereof the houſe ſtood. So we went apace, and drew near to it, and there I ſaw a very ſtately porch at the weſt end

end of the houſe, and at the door ſtood a ſtrong tall porter, to whom my guide ſpake, and ſaid to him on this wiſe:

This young man hath long had a deſire to be entertained in the houſe of God, thereupon I have conducted him hither. The porter aſked him, which way I came thither? He ſaid, Through the river. I do not remember he aſked me any more queſtions, but bid me welcome, and let me into the houſe, and my guide went in with me, through many turnings and windings into a great hall: mine eye went to and fro as I went about the houſe; and, in the great hall, I ſaw many people: they bid me welcome, but none knew the anguiſh of my ſoul: for I began to queſtion whether I was not again beguiled; for I found the houſe foul and dirty almoſt in every part, and ſo belined with ſpiders and cobwebs, that I thought in myſelf it had never been ſwept clean ſince it was built; and ſome things I met withal that diſpleaſed me yet worſe, as ye ſhall hear; howbeit a good bed was provided for me

me to reſt upon if I could; and I having little ſtomach, after I ſaw how ſupper was made ready, I went to bed, and diſpoſed myſelf to ſleep what I could; but alas! ſleep departed from me, and my ſpirits were grievouſly vexed, and my cogitations were many and grievous; ſometimes I thought of the paintings without, and how that ſuited not with the dirtineſs that was within, and if I was deceived, what courſe I ſhould take.

After a long and tedious thinking, I pleaſed myſelf with this, It may be better to-morrow: ſo I fell into a ſlumber a pretty while, but in the morning before I aroſe, I heard two or three contending about ſome accounts, in which one laid fraud to the other's charge; the other, inſtead of vindicating himſelf, fell a twitting him in the teeth with ſomething of the like kind; they grew ſo hot in words, that they threatened to turn each other out of doors, and drive him back again through the river, and never ſuffer him to come into the houſe any more.

My

My heart was ready to burſt with ſorrow, and in the anguiſh of my ſpirit I aroſe and went to them, and told them, I little thought to have found ſuch doings, or heard ſuch language in the houſe of God; I fear, quoth I, I am deceived, and brought in amongſt you by a fair ſhew, but ſee not the glory, peace, and tranquility, which I expected.

So I walked away to another part of the houſe, where I heard a great noiſe of hard words, and I drew near, and underſtood it was about chooſing an officer; and two were ſtriving for it, and each of them had got a party, and each party grew hot one againſt another. As ſoon as I could be heard, I ſpake to them, and told them, Such kind of doings as this did more reſemble a place in the world called Billingſgate, than the houſe of God.

I went a little farther, and there I heard ſome women ſcolding about taking the upper-hand, and about ſome faſhions in their clothes; and others about

about getting their children's play-things from each other. All this, and much more than I ſhall mention, encreaſed my ſorrow. I now began to long to ſpeak with my guide that brought me thither; and with diligent ſearch at laſt I found him, and began with him in this manner:

Whither haſt thou brought me? and where are the rules and orders thou toldeſt me were in the houſe of God? I have often read of the beauty, order, peace and purity of the houſe of God, but here I find nothing but the contrary; I fear thou haſt brought me to a wrong houſe, and haſt beguiled me: So I rehearſed to him what I had met withal. To which he replied, I muſt expect men have their human frailties, and that men were but men, and perſuaded me to be ſatisfied, and make further trial. And as for the orders he ſpake of, they were moſt about meats and drinks, and about rules for electing of officers to rule the houſe of God, as I would ſee in time, if I ſtayed; and as to the dirtineſs of the houſe, he confeſſed,

feſſed, thoſe to whom the care belonged, and was committed, to keep the houſe clean, had not been ſo diligent as they ought to have been; but he hoped, upon admonition, they would be more careful. To which I returned this anſwer: What doſt thou talk of human frailties in the houſe of God? That complaint is at large in the world, but doth not become the houſe of God, into which I have heard none can come but ſuch as are redeemed from the earth, and are waſhed from their pollutions; for God ſaith, "All the "veſſels in my houſe ſhall be holy;" and they that dwell in the houſe of God muſt have pure hearts and clean hands; and much more I told him of what I heard and read concerning the houſe of God. And told him plainly, I had let in ſuch a belief of the peace, purity, glory and comelineſs of the houſe of God, that I was perſuaded that was none of it, and where to find it, I knew not; but if I never found it whilſt I lived, I would never give over ſeeking, my deſires were ſo after it, that I thought nothing would ſatisfy me

me ſhort of the enjoyment of it. But as for your houſe here, I have no ſatisfaction in it that it is the place I ſeek, ſo I muſt leave you.

His anſwer to me was, He was ſorry I could not be ſatisfied there as well as he, but if I could not he would lay no reſtraint upon me; for his part, he had directed me as far as he knew, and he could do no more for me. After our diſcourſe was ended, I got up, and went out, but knew not where to go; ſeveral in the houſe threw things after me in a ſpiteful manner, but none hurt me, and I wandered ſometimes north, and ſometimes ſouth, and over every way that came in my mind; but whitherſoever I went, the anguiſh of my ſoul went along with me, which was more than tongue or pen can utter or declare, or any one can believe, except this relation ſhould meet with any one that hath experienced the ſame travel; which if it doth, he will underſtand it.

But ſo it was, I had no comfort night nor day, but ſtill kept going on, whether right or wrong, I knew not, nor durſt I aſk any body, for fear of being beguiled as before. Thus I got into a vaſt howling wilderneſs, where there ſeemed to be no way, only now and then I found ſome men's and women's footſteps, which was ſome comfort to me in my ſorrow; but whether they got out without being devoured of wild beaſts, or whither I ſhould go, I knew not. But in this woful ſtate I travelled from day to day, caſting within myſelf what I had beſt to do, whether utterly to deſpair in that condition, or whether I had beſt to ſeek ſome other town or city, to ſee if I could get ſome other guide. The firſt I ſaw to be deſperate; I alſo deſpaired of the laſt, having been ſo deceived from time to time; ſo that all theſe conſultations did but increaſe the bitterneſs of my ſoul.

And one day, as I was travelling in the afternoon, a terrible ſtorm aroſe, with hail and thunder, and a great wind,

wind, which laſted till night, and in the night alſo: and I being weary, both in body and mind, lay me down under a great tree, and after ſome time I fell aſleep; and when I awaked, and came to myſelf, it was ſtill very dark; and looking about, I ſaw a ſmall light pretty near me; and it came into my mind to go to it, and ſee what it was, and as I went, the light went before me.

Then it came into my mind, that I had heard of falſe lights, as *ignis fatuus*, and ſuch like, that would lead people out of their way; then thought I again, how ſhould I be led out of my way, that know no way of ſafety. And whilſt I ſate down to let theſe ſtriving thoughts have their courſe, I took notice, and beheld the light as near me as at the firſt, as if it had waited for me. At which I was ſtrongly affected, and thought within myſelf, it may be ſome good ſpirit is come to take pity of me, and is come to lead me out of this miſerable condition. And ſo a reſolution aroſe in my mind,

that I would get up and follow it, concluding in myſelf, that I could not be brought into a much worſe condition than I was now in. So I aroſe and followed it, and it went a gentle eaſy pace at firſt, and I kept my eye ſtrait on it; but afterwards I found a great part of the luggage and proviſion I had got together did but burthen me in my journey; ſo I threw away one thing, and then another, that I thought I could beſt ſpare, but kept a great bundle of clothes ſtill by me, not knowing whether I ſhould need them. And as I thus went on, and the light before me, it led me out of the wilderneſs, along a plain champaign country, without trees or inhabitants; only I perceived as if ſome few had gone that way; and the light kept ſtrait in that path without any winding or turning, till I came to the foot of a great mountain; and going up that great mountain, I found it hard getting up, and began to conſider my great bundle of clothes and garments, and that ſeveral of them were of no uſe to a traveller as I was, who did not

not know how far I ſhould go, nor whether I ſhould want them, if ever I was ſo happy as to attain what I aimed at; nor whether the faſhions would ſuit the place I was going to. So I threw away ſome, and anon other ſome, till I had none left but what I wore. And as I followed this my guide, I at laſt got up to the top of this mountain, and ſaw another yet higher: and there I ſaw a man, that aſked me, whither I was going? I told him I could not well tell; but I would tell him whither I deſired to go; he ſaid Whither? To the houſe of God: he told me it was that way, but he thought I ſhould never get thither. I aſked him, Why? Why, quoth he, there lieth in yonder mountain ſo many vipers, adders, and ſerpents, and ſuch venomous beaſts, that they devour many people that are going that way. For my part, ſaid he, I was going alſo, but was ſo affrighted with thoſe venomous ſerpents, that I was forced to turn back, and ſo I would have you.

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I anſwered him, Friend, I have for a pretty while taken yonder light to be my guide, and it hath directed me a long way, and I ſee it doth not leave me; look, doſt thou ſee it there before me? He anſwered Yes, I ſee it. Well, ſaid I, I have heard by travellers, that if a man have fire or light, the venomous beaſts cannot hurt him: and I intend to quicken my pace a little, and keep as cloſe to the light as I can: come, go along with me and venture it.

He ſaid it was true, he had heard that fire would preſerve from them, but he thought light would not. However, for his part he would not venture his ſweet life amongſt them; if I would, I might; he wiſhed me well, and ſo we parted; and I made haſte, got up pretty near the light, and up I went the ſecond mountain; and when I came almoſt to the top of the mountain, I ſaw many ſerpents dens, and vipers holes, both on the right hand and on the left; and the venomous beaſts drew near me, and hiſſed at me, and I began to be in great fear,

fear, and trembled exceedingly; but many times, when they were ready to ſting me, the light would ſtep in, or appear betwixt me and them, and they were affrighted, and ran away into their holes and dens.

Oh! when I perceived this, how did my heart leap for joy within me; my fear of the ſerpents abated, my love to my kind and tender guide increaſed, and my courage and confidence abounded, and I began to believe I was in the right way to attain my deſire. So on I went, keeping my eye to the light, through them all without harm, till I came to the top of the mountain; and then I ſaw an exceeding large valley, that I could not ſee to the further ſide of it; there ſeemed to be moors or places of water, and bogs and mire all over the valley, which began again to diſhearten me; but thought I, what ſhall I do? All is well hitherto, I was ſtrangely delivered from the ſerpents, and whatever comes of it, if this light leave me not, I will follow it, if it be through fire and water: and ſo I kept

on, and went down the mountain a gentle eaſy pace, and ſaw many of thoſe cruel creatures by the way, who put out their ſtings at me, but none hurt me. And I took notice, the nearer I kept to the light, the more they kept from me; ſo I got down to the bottom of the mountain into the large valley, which was very green and pleaſant for a little way; but by and by the light went towards a great mooriſh ground full of water, and that I thought was very dangerous; but when I came juſt to the ſide of the place, I ſaw a ſmall narrow path through the middle of it, juſt broad enough for a man to go upon, and into that narrow way the light led me, and went before me; and whilſt I kept my eye ſteady to it, I went on ſafely, but if at any time I began to gaze about, my feet ſlipt into the mire and puddles, and then I had much ado to get into my way again; had not the light kindly and tenderly waited for me, I had loſt ſight of it, and had periſhed in the way; for ſometimes it was ſo far before me, that I could hardly

hardly diſcern it, and then I would quicken my diligence, and be more careful of my goings, and keep as cloſe to it as I could. So that ſometimes the light ſhined round about me, and I walked in the ſhinings of it with great fulneſs of ſpirit; and after I had walked a long time in this narrow way, I lifted up my eyes and ſaw to the further ſide of the mooriſh valley, and ſaw beyond, that there was a very high mountain, and on the top of that there was a very great houſe; at the ſight of which I was greatly comforted, ſuppoſing that might be the houſe I had for a long time ſought.

But after this I met with another ſore exerciſe; for there were many I perceived had been travelling in that narrow way, and had fallen into the mire, ſome on the right hand, and ſome on the left, and they lay wallowing full of envy, ſome by plucking at me, to pull me in; others by throwing mire and dirt upon me, to diſcourage me: others would ſpeak very fair, on purpoſe to draw me into diſcourſe with them,

them, that whilſt I ſpent my precious time, I might be caſt ſo far behind, that I might loſe the ſight of my good guide. But I ſaw their evil deſigns, and was aware of them, keeping on my narrow way till I came to the end of the boggy valley, and then found firm ground under my feet, to my great comfort. And I had gone but a little way, when my guide, the light, went into a narrow lane, well hedged on both ſides; at which I was glad, thinking I could not go wrong, and need not now take ſo very much care; but alas! I quickly found ſo many by-lanes and ways, that lay almoſt as ſtrait forward as that I went in; ſo that if it had not been for the light which went a little before me, I might certainly many times have gone wrong; but by carefully keeping to my good guide, I got at laſt up to the mountain, and ſaw the houſe again, and diſcerned a man of that country a pretty way off; and I called to him, Friend, ho! Friend, pray tell me what is the name of yonder great houſe? He told me name of it was

Bethel;

Bethel; then I preſently remembered that that was the name by which the houſe of God was called in my father's country, where I had heard the reports of it, and was ſo earneſtly ſet to find it out.

Oh! the joy and conſolation that I felt in my ſoul, no tongue can expreſs it, to think that now after all my travels, perils, and diſappointments, I had now found that I ſought for. So on I went journeying with joy unſpeakable; and as I went, I viewed the outſide of the houſe, that was very large, and had but one tower; there was no carved work about it, nor any paintings, nor any kind of device that I could diſcern; but all the ſtones were curiouſly joined together from the top to the bottom. I alſo took notice that all the ſtones of the building were tranſparent, ſome more and ſome leſs, and I ſaw no windows to let in light from without; and when I drew near to it, it had a large outward court, and a pretty large gate to go into it, ſo that a man might go into it with

with a large burthen on his back; and when I came at it, in I went, where I ſaw many people that were very cheerful, and lived very pleaſant lives; and ſome of them told me, they had lived there many years, and wanted for nothing, for there was a mighty tree grew in the midſt of the court, and the fruit thereof was good, and the leaves alſo, and they were well contented with it, and it bore fruit all the year long; and many of them were ſo kind as to invite me to ſit down and eat with them, but that I refuſed; and they ſhewed me a great ciſtern they had hewn out to themſelves to catch water from the element, and they had made themſelves convenient lodgings in the ſides of the court to lodge in; but this did not ſatisfy me, for I ſaw my beloved guide paſs through them all, and enter in at a little door at the further ſide of it; whereupon I left them, and made haſte to the door, wherein I ſaw my guide had entered, and attempted to enter in thereat, but could not, it was ſo ſtrait, which put me into great ſorrow of mind,

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mind, and what to do I knew not; my thoughts troubled me on every ſide; and all ways I tried, but in vain. Oh! thought I, are all my troubles and labours come to this, muſt I be ſhut out at the laſt: what ſhall I do? And as I was thus perplexing myſelf, I thought I heard a voice, but knew not from whence it came, which ſaid, Young man, ſtrip thee of thy old garments, and ſo thou mayſt enter. This occaſioned yet more trouble of mind, for I was loth to go in naked: but at laſt I thought it better to go in naked, than not at all. So at laſt I fell to ſtripping, thinking a few pitiful rags ſhould not hinder me of ſo great an enjoyment. And when I was ſtripped ſtark naked as ever I was born, I tried to enter, and found no great difficulty in it; and ſo ſoon as I was entered, one met me, and caſt a garment of pure white linen over me, which reached down to my feet; and he brought me into a narrow room, and ſaid, Reſt here a while. And then I lay me down in ſo much joy and comfort, as is impoſſible to be expreſſ-

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ed, all things were ſo pleaſant about me, and my reſting-place was ſo delightful, and my heart was ſo fully ſatisfied, that it overcame me with ſongs of joy; but I found it my buſineſs to be ſtill and quiet in my happy condition, that I was come to enjoy.

I had not been long in the room before I was called out to ſee the beauty and comelineſs of the houſe; and as I walked, I found every thing ſo clean and bright, that I was raviſhed in an admirable manner with it; and I met alſo with ſome people that welcomed me to the houſe of God, with ſuch kindneſs as refreſhed my heart; and as I came to be acquainted with them, I marked their converſations, and their diſcourſes were exceeding comfortable to me; no quarrelling, no contention, no high or hot words, but all paſſed with meekneſs and reverence, and due reſpect one for the other; the young men waited for the words of the ancients, and the virgins carried a reverent reſpect to the matrons, and there was

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an univerſal concord and unity, ſo that I wondered greatly. And one day I was opening my mind to an ancient, and told him, I admired much, and wondered greatly, at the univerſal concord that I had taken notice of, beyond all I had met with in my life. He ſaid, It muſt needs be ſo, and could not be otherwiſe, for that that was the guide to lead me hither, which had been the guide to them all. And he farther told me, There could be no contention, but where two ſpirits ſtrove for maſtery; but it was not ſo in this houſe. His anſwer was ſo full and ſatisfactory to me, that I ſaid no more to him at that time, but went on viewing and beholding the order of every thing I ſaw, till my ſoul was filled, and I might ſay, my cup did overflow. So that my former labours and diſappointments, ſorrows and perils did ſignify nothing to me, I had a full reward, a hundred-fold.

So I returned to my reſt again, in a larger room than before, where I ſung praiſes to my God, and ſetting forth the

the praiſes of the houſe, and them that dwell therein. And a while after I was called forth of the room where I was, and was told I was not brought to that place, only to take pleaſure and delight therein; but there was a work to be done, and I muſt take my part of it, and be faithful and diligent in what I was ſet about. To which I anſwered, It was enough that I had attained my deſires in being admitted into the heavenly place, but if there were any buſineſs that I could do, I was willing to do it, be it what it would; for it would be my greateſt joy to do any thing to the advancement of the honour of the houſe of God, and them that dwell therein. Then he that talked with me, told me, It was my work to teach the children ſo far as I knew and had learned, and as far as I ſhould from time to time be farther inſtructed. Indeed I was a little amazed thereat, knowing my inabilities: but when I had a little pondered that part of the ſentence, That I ſhould be from time to time farther inſtructed, I took courage in my work, and made ſome

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progreſs in it with great fear and reverence, waiting daily for thoſe inſtructions I was to receive, and I did receive in an abundant manner: and the work proſpered in my hand, and the children loved me, and I loved them intirely, as though they had been my own children; and many of them grew up to a good underſtanding, and obſerved their places and orders to my great delight. And after I had thus continued a while, he that talked with me before, came and told me, I muſt take the charge of part of the houſhold, and give them their meat in due ſeaſon; and ſuit every one's meat, in dividing to every one's ſtate and condition, and not to feed ſtrong men with milk, and babes with ſtrong meat; and for that purpoſe he gave me a key that led into the treaſury or ſtore-houſe; which when I came to ſee and behold, it was abundantly filled with all ſorts of nouriſhments, that never could be exhauſted or ſpent while the world endured. And I obſerved, that whatſoever I or others took out to diſtribute daily among the

houſhold of God, the ſtore-houſe was ſtill full as at the beginning, and ſo it continues this day, and for ever.

And now having continued a long time in this heavenly habitation, it comes in my mind to let my countrymen, and the children of my old father, whom I left in Babylon, hear of me; for I ſuppoſe they judge me loſt or devoured: but I could be glad if any, yea, all of them, were here to behold, and taſte, and feel what I do.

And let none of them ſay, it happened better with me than with many; for I have underſtood ſince I came into this houſe, that the ſame light that appeared to me, doth appear to any poor diſtreſſed ſoul in the whole world; but the reaſon that ſo few come here is, becauſe they fear the perils and dangers that are in the way, more than they love the light that would lead them through them; and ſo turn aſide, and ſhelter themſelves in an old rotten building, that at one time or other

other will fall on their heads, and they periſh in the ruins.

Now if any one have a mind to know my name, let them know I had a name in my father's country; but in this long and tedious journey I have loſt it. But ſince I came hither, I have a new name; but I have no characters to ſignify it by, that I can write, or they can read; but if any will come where I am, they ſhall know my name. But for further ſatisfaction, I was born in Egypt, ſpiritually called; and my father went and lived in Babylon, about the time the true children of Iſrael were in captivity; there I came acquainted with ſome of the ſtock of the Jews, about the time they were returning to their own land; and they told me wonderful things of the glory of the houſe they had at Jeruſalem, and would have had me gone along with them; and amongſt the reſt, I underſtood that Solomon, with many thouſands of carpenters and maſons, had built it. Upon which I conſidered

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considered within myself, that if Solomon and the carpenters and masons had built it, carpenters and masons might at one time or other pull it down again. So I went not, but sought a city, whose builder is God; and now I have found it: Hallelujah in the highest! glory, honour, and renown, to his worthy name and power, throughout all ages and generations! Amen.

S. C.

FINIS.